wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a solution of purified α-interferon.

B2 Cont'd

6. (Twice Amended) The method according to any of claims 5, wherein the α-interferon solution before virus filtration, has an activity in the range of 3 to 50 mill. IU/ml.

B3

13. (Amended) An α-interferon composition, comprising a non-ionic detergent as a stabilizer in an amount exceeding the critical micellar concentration of the detergent and being essentially free from substances and agents retained on a virus-filter having a high virus retentive capacity even for small non-enveloped viruses.

B4

15. (Twice Amended) The composition according to claim 13, comprising an α-interferon solution containing at least two α-interferon subtypes selected from the group consisting of α1, α2, α4, α7, α8, α10, α14, α17 and α21.

Please add the following new claims:

--16. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said recovered filtrate contains said non-ionic detergent.--

B5

--17. (New) A method of removing and/or inactivating intact or non-intact bacteria, viral material, or prions from a

pharmaceutical composition of a biologically active interferon protein comprising:

(1) adding to a solution of the interferon protein a non-ionic detergent;

(2) subjecting the solution containing the non-ionic detergent to filtration on a virus removal filter with a pore size of 10 to 40 nm; and

(3) recovering the filtrate.--

B5 Cont

--18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein non-enveloped viruses, and/or prions are removed and/or inactivated.--